

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

In the illustrated non-limiting embodiment, the input interface 116 is connected to pins on the chip 110, which pins are connected to traces [[116']] 117 on the line card 109, which traces [[116']] 117 connect to line cards 106 through a releasable connector [[116']] 119. But the traces [[116']] 117 need not be contained or embedded within the switch card 109 and need not be electronic; for example, in embodiments where indium phosphide based switch fabrics are contemplated, guided or free-space optical inputs and outputs may be preferred.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 37, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

One possible implementation of the request-processing module 770, the address decoder 780 and the packet-forwarding logic 790 is now described with additional reference to Fig. 4. The request processing section 770 comprises a request generator 420, which is connected to the queue controllers 710 (not shown in Figure 4) via the *request* lines 703 and the *priority* lines 707. The request generator 420 is also connected to a programmable round-robin arbiter (PRRA) 422 via a plurality of *request* lines 424 and may further be connected to a pointer control entity 412 via a control line 413.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 39, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

To simplify the description, but without limiting the scope of the invention, it can be assumed that a pointer and a mask are not defined for each possible priority level, but rather for each of a set of priority classes, namely high, medium and low. ~~[[Also, ]]~~ As shown in Fig. 7, transmitter 140 comprises N queue controllers 710<sub>i</sub>, 1 ≤ i ≤ N. While it is expressly understood that N can be any positive integer, by way of example let it be assumed for the moment that N = 4, i.e., there are ~~[[assumed to be]]~~ four queue controllers 710<sub>1</sub>, 710<sub>2</sub>, 710<sub>3</sub>, 710<sub>4</sub> that submit requests to the request generator 420.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 39, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

By way of this example, let the requests from queue controllers 710<sub>1</sub>, 710<sub>2</sub>, 710<sub>3</sub>, 710<sub>4</sub> be associated with medium, NONE, low and medium priority classes, respectively. That is to say, queue controller 710<sub>2</sub> has not submitted a request. Accordingly, the initial "high" mask would be 0000 (as no request has a high priority class), the initial "medium" mask would be 1001 (as queue controllers 710<sub>1</sub> and 710<sub>4</sub> have submitted requests associated with a medium priority class) and the initial "low" mask would be 0010 (as queue controller 710<sub>3</sub>, has submitted a request associated with a low priority class). The initial value of each pointer would be set to zero, as no request has yet been granted.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Minor amendments have been made to Figs. 1, 5, 9, 14, 17A and 20.  
Specifically:

In Fig. 1, reference signs 116'' and 116' have been changed to 117 and 119, respectively.

In Fig. 5, reference signs 508<sub>1</sub> and 508<sub>2</sub> have been replaced with reference signs 508<sub>A</sub>, 508<sub>B</sub>, 508<sub>C</sub>, and reference signs 514<sub>1</sub> and 514<sub>2</sub> have been replaced with reference signs 514<sub>A</sub>, 514<sub>B</sub>, and 514<sub>C</sub>.

In Fig. 9, reference sign 940 has been added to refer to the entirety of the Figure and reference sign 982 has been added to refer to the BASE\_ADDRESS line.

In Fig. 14, reference sign 1472 has been added to refer to the bus on the far right-hand side of the Figure.

In Fig. 17A, reference signs 508<sub>1</sub> and 508<sub>2</sub> have been replaced with reference signs 508<sub>A</sub>, 508<sub>B</sub>, 508<sub>C</sub>, and reference signs 514<sub>1</sub> and 514<sub>2</sub> have been replaced with reference signs 514<sub>A</sub>, 514<sub>B</sub>, and 514<sub>C</sub>.

In Fig. 20, reference sign 207 has been added to the free\_slot line between transmitter 140 and input interface 116.